

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today hearings began in the Government Reform and Oversight Committee on campaign finance reform. In the Senate an agreement has been worked out to allow a vote on campaign finance reform before March 6 of next year. On the floor of the House 168 Members, Democrats and Republicans, have signed a discharge petition to bring a vote forward. It looks like campaign finance reform is gaining momentum here in Washington.

I for one am not yet satisfied. There are only a few weeks left before the House adjourns for the year. Next year will be an election year. It will be too late to deal with this issue when we come back next year.

The House leadership needs to commit itself to allowing a vote before we leave this year. Those Members who care about this issue should join me and sign the discharge petition. The recent action on campaign reform is not enough. We must be given a chance to vote on this issue on the floor of the House of Representatives and we must do that in the next few weeks. I refuse to take "no" for an answer.

TRIBUTE TO THE BLACK ARCHIVES, HISTORY AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA, INC. ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary on Saturday, November 15, 1997.

This is indeed a milestone in the history of this organization, given the countless struggles and challenges that ushered its humble beginnings. And as I join my community in recalling the role of Miami's Black Archives Foundation, I also would like to honor Dr. Dorothy Jenkins Fields who serves as the catalyst behind its emergence as a respected institution. Almost singlehandedly, Dr. Fields helped turn around a neglected part of Miami's cultural heritage into a living, breathing lesson about the black experience in south Florida for students, adults, and researchers alike.

In preparation for the celebration of our Nation's 200th birthday, she conceived and developed the concept that hastened the establishment of this cultural institution. Incorporated in November 17, 1977, as a private nonprofit organization, the Black Archives, History and Research of South Florida, Inc. is presently governed by a board of directors and supported by a board of trustees. Funded solely by its members, donations and grants, the foundation is dependent upon its volunteer help.

This institution serves as a manuscript/photographic repository of south Florida's African-American communities. The materials in this repository are collected for educational purposes for users, which include students, teachers, scholars, researchers, the media, and the public-at-large. The memories of the pioneers, family albums, photographs, documents, souvenir programs from churches and organizations are preserved in its burgeoning files. Additionally, it identifies historic sites for nomination to local, state and national designation. As a result of the collected documentation, the historic Overtown Folklife Village and Dade County's Black Heritage Trail came to fruition.

It also works in conjunction with the Dade County public schools by providing content for the infusion of African-American history into existing curriculum utilizing source materials for schoolchildren of all races throughout the school year. It also initiated the restoration of several historic sites including the Dr. William A. Chapman, Sr., residence. Located on the campus of Booker T. Washington High School, the house was restored for reuse as the Ethnic Heritage Children's Educational Center.

One of the more recent joint ventures it worked out with the Dade County public schools is the creation of a districtwide, multi-cultural and multiethnic research and educational facility for students, teachers, and the community. The objective is to provide opportunities for students at all grade levels to celebrate the rich variety of cultures in Dade County. This program enables students to record the past in relation to the present, as well as ponder the possible events of the coming century.

The documented materials that now form the wealth of the Black Archives Foundation collectively represent a stirring graphic journey into the inner sanctum of some of the most vivid life-experiences of African-Americans in Dade County. The soul-searching representation captivated by its historic documents personify not so much the black destination, as much as the episodic journey of our pioneers to that destination. Together they evoke the truism of a revered African Ashanti proverb that " * * * until the lions get their own historian, the story of the hunt will always glorify the hunter."

Mr. Speaker, I am truly proud of the pioneering efforts and resilient spirit of Dr. Dorothy Fields that nurtured the spirit of the Black Archives Foundation in South Florida. The significance of the role of the foundation is premised on the paradigm in that when you stifle the remembrance of your people's past, you will have silenced the promise of their future. Conversely, however, I am exultant that under the aegis of this revered institution our community has truly become redemptive and knowledgeable of the struggles and sacrifices of our African-American forebears.

As we honor them through the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Black Archives Foundation, we will have become once again their partners in exploring the journey they have begun. In the convergence of our spirits and memories with theirs, we will be enriched because through our understanding of the many and varied messages they left us through their life journeys, we will be inextricably linked closer to them.

On this occasion I want to congratulate the board of directors and the board of trustees for their steadfast efforts and genuine resili-

ence throughout the Black Archives Foundation's 20-year history. I would like to reiterate our community's utmost gratitude for giving us the privilege of maximizing our knowledge of the vast richness and nobility of our African-American heritage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber today during rollcall Vote Nos. 546 and 547. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of these votes.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2267, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 1997

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to instruct conferees and in strong support of immigrants' rights. I believe family reunification should be one of the highest priorities of our immigration policy and that the process of naturalization of legal residents needs to be more efficient. Letting 245(i) sunset would be morally wrong and economically unwise. It would separate thousands of families and disrupt thousands of businesses. Furthermore letting 245(i) sunset is not fiscally sound. The receipts from the penalty fee help pay for important INS activities.

Mr. Speaker, 245(i) is not amnesty. It does not reward those who purposefully broke our laws. Instead, it is for people who are sponsored by close family members or by employers who cannot find eligible U.S. workers, and whose "priority date" is current under existing quotas. It does not change the order in which a person's claim is adjudicated. In short, section 245(i) allows business to keep valued employees and allows families to stay together.

It is just inhumane to force immigrants who have families in this country to leave the U.S. and to apply and wait for their visas in a foreign country. This instills fear and promotes division of immigrant families.

Mr. Speaker, this whole debate is not really about fighting illegal immigration. This is just another attempt by some members on the other side of the aisle to sharply restrict or even eliminate immigration to the United States. Republican members claim they uphold family values. But when it comes to poor families and immigrant families, Republicans have demonstrated time and again that they want to make it more difficult for immigrants who have been living, working, and paying taxes in this country to reunite with their loved ones.

A policy which divides thousands of families of U.S. citizens and legal residents seems preposterous at a time when family unification